

May 21, 2025

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**RE: Open Letter to Harvard Regarding Antisemitism and Discipline for  
Student-Employees Who Assaulted Jewish Student**

President Garber et al.,

We write for the third time on behalf of Yoav Segev, a second-year Harvard Business School (HBS) student. Mr. Segev has not only been subjected to an extremely hostile, antisemitic environment at Harvard, but he was also assaulted, battered, and harassed by a rabid mob of Harvard students and employees. After a

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year of obfuscating, delaying, and refusing to punish the offenders, Harvard has now ignored his last two letters, which merely requested an update into the disciplinary process.

As captured on video, on October 18, 2023, two graduate student-employees named Elom Tetey-Tamaklo (HDS) and Ibrahim Bharmal (HLS), along with an angry mob, surrounded Mr. Segev with keffiyehs,<sup>1</sup> obstructing his ability to move across the public lawn, screaming "Shame!" repeatedly in his face, and violently grabbing him. At one point, Mr. Segev can be heard imploring his attackers, "Don't touch me! Don't grab my neck!" The entire assault was captured in several iPhone videos and by aerial news footage.

Although, as we explained, this disgraceful misconduct warranted immediate expulsion under several University policies, neither of the primary assailants (or any others) have faced real repercussions from Harvard to date, nineteen months later. Notwithstanding the two assailants' history of rabid Jew-hatred, and even though the assault was recorded on camera, Harvard has still refused to do anything.

While Mr. Segev continues to suffer to this day, the assailants have perversely benefited from their antisemitic violence and vitriol—getting praise from Harvard social media and Bharmal receiving a paid fellowship from the *Harvard Law Review* to work at a pro-terror organization. Tetey-Tamaklo is also being given the honor of serving as marshal at graduation. Harvard's rewarding rather than punishing these two antisemitic assailants violates state and federal anti-discrimination law, as well as Harvard's "moral imperative," as the University recently referred to it.

Harvard's silence and inaction are grounded in nothing other than blatant antisemitism. The institution is kowtowing to a mob of antisemitic faculty and students, rather than enforcing its policy fairly and with moral clarity, as it would do to protect any other minority.

As you recall, after the assault, several Harvard faculty and staff issued a public statement with the audacity to *blame Mr. Segev* because "his presence"—read: his Jewish presence—made the protestors feel "unsafe" and "frighten[ed]."<sup>2</sup> The faculty and staff called for the assaulters' protection because of their "dark skin," notwithstanding that they mobbed and assaulted another student. Likewise, a chorus of Harvard students engaged in a defamation campaign on social media, casting Mr. Segev as the instigator and insisting he had *not* been assaulted or targeted for his

<sup>1</sup> The keffiyeh is a symbol of violence against Jews. It was popularized by Yasser Arafat, who led the Palestine Liberation Organization, a designated foreign terrorist organization. See 22 U.S.C. § 5201(b).

<sup>2</sup> <https://medium.com/@harvardfjps/statement-in-support-of-harvard-student-elom-teteytamaklo-cdb164780bf3>

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faith (despite video evidence to the contrary). A clinical instructor at HLS joined the students, accusing Mr. Segev on her X account of "being aggressive" and engaging in intimidation.

Bending to this radical, immoral, and un-American ideology—which provides that there can be no punishment for people with "dark skin" who attack Jews—Harvard sprung to action *in defense of the assailants*. Rather than speak out clearly and righteously against the attack, then-President Claudine Gay stated that the "incident is being investigated by the FBI and the Harvard University Police Department." She continued: "[c]onsistent with our standard practice, once law enforcement's inquiry is complete, the University will address the incident through its student disciplinary procedures to determine if University policies or codes of conduct have been violated and, if so, take appropriate action."<sup>3</sup>

Of course, there was never any "standard practice"—it was an effort to delay and obfuscate. Such a practice would be nonsensical. The assault was caught on tape, and the offenders were clearly identified. Contrary to Gay's insipid and legalistic statement, there could be no doubt that their conduct blatantly violated school policy. Harvard could have made its own assessment, based on its own policies and video evidence, regardless of the outcome of the criminal process, and it could have punished the student-employees immediately. It would have done exactly that had the victim been a member of another minority group. Would Harvard really let students in white hoods, who attacked a Black student, roam around campus the next two years freely, in good standing because of some unwritten practice? Or would it have expelled them immediately? Worse, here, Harvard not only refused to discipline the assailants, it obstructed the D.A.'s investigation to protect them.

In any event, as Harvard is aware, the criminal proceedings against the assailants have ended, so it can no longer hide behind its unwritten "practices." On April 28, 2025, a Massachusetts court ordered Bharmal and Tetey-Tamaklo into a pretrial diversion program and required each to do eighty hours of community service, complete an in-person anger management program, and complete a course on negotiation. Notably, the D.A. issued a public statement that Mr. Segev was "an entirely innocent victim"—putting to rest the absurd claims by Harvard faculty and students that Mr. Segev was somehow at fault.

While refusing to take any action, other than rewarding the wrongdoers, Harvard has now added insult to injury by contemptuously ignoring Mr. Segev's recent letters, dated May 1 and May 5, 2025, in which we simply requested

<sup>3</sup> This bland statement, lacking any moral clarity, was followed by Gay's infamous December 2023 statement to Congress that, "depending on the context," calling for genocide against Jews does not violate Harvard's policies.

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information into the status of the disciplinary process that was supposed to be underway. While it is shameful that Harvard would ignore Mr. Segev, after everything he's been through, Mr. Segev is not the only one being misled.

As noted in our two previous letters, *Harvard specifically represented to Congress, under oath, and to a federal court*, that it would complete the disciplinary process after the criminal proceedings ended and before graduation. But Harvard has not done so. Instead, in a matter of days, the assailants will graduate in good standing with Harvard, and one will even be honored as a graduation marshal. And, after that, Harvard will surely claim that it can no longer take any action against them, washing its hands of the entire incident. Harvard's representations to Congress and to the federal court therefore appear to be misleading, if not downright false.

Harvard is currently undertaking public relations efforts to rehabilitate the University's image, primarily through letters and op-eds, while it faces withholding of federal funds. But all the lofty promises and statements about antisemitism will prove meaningless if Harvard fails Mr. Segev at this critical moment. Antisemitism cannot be magically cured with op-eds and "virtuous public declarations" that are, in reality, "hollow." *Kestenbaum v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 743 F. Supp. 3d 297, 310 (D. Mass. 2024). Rather than focus on public relations and image, Harvard should do real work. When antisemitic mobs assault a student, the offenders must be punished. This is the only way to effectuate real and lasting change.

At this point, we do not anticipate a response.

Sincerely,

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